

# The Reds in the 'United States

## MOSCOW REPRIMANDED AMERICAN COMMUNISTS FOR RAID IN MICHIGAN

Russian Reds Declared Adherents in This Country Bungled Convention at Bridgeman—Ordered to 'Purify' Organization—Treachery Charged—William Z. Foster Employed by Soviet Dictators—Sketches of Radical Leaders Who Were Arrested.

### FOURTH ARTICLE.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.

IN the midst of their internal squabbles the Communists in America received a serious setback by Michigan authorities when they swooped down on the Communist party secret convention at Bridgeman last August and arrested many of the leaders in the movement. The raid netted a lot of valuable papers, carrying convincing evidence of a direct connection between the Workers party of America, the Communist party of America and the Third Internationale of Moscow. They were turned over to the bureau of investigation by Michigan officials, who acted under the State anti-syndicalism law.

Men taken at Bridgeman, where the convention was in progress, were indicted and will be tried. Federal agents will watch the cases with a view to adding to their own file against these radicals.

## Red Circular Advises Caution And Action After Michigan Raid

After the Bridgeman roundup this circular was issued:

"To THE MEMBERSHIP:

"No. 1 convention is now history. In due time the details regarding the work will reach you. You will already have heard that circumstances caused an early adjournment. But the most essential tasks of the convention were completed. The issues that the convention was called to settle were settled satisfactorily. The strife that has torn our ranks the past months should now cease, and all should unite in strengthening our No. 1 to meet the onslaughts of the common foe.

"A new CEC was elected which takes a realistic attitude toward the present situation. The CEC will endeavor, through its development of No. 1 activities as the basis for all our other work, to merit the confidence of membership, upon which alone party authority can rest.

"The various documents of the convention which were adopted in principle and referred to the CEC for final writing will be conveyed to you as soon as ready.

"Word has just been received that Comrade Cook is not coming—there is no instructions from the C. I. The actions of the convention are, therefore, the last word.

### Warned Not to Stampede.

"Just a word of caution. Don't believe ALL you read in the press. Remember that newspaper writers have fertile imaginations, especially where we are concerned. Do not let yourselves be stampeded with wild rumors.

As quickly as possible the facts will be communicated to you through party channels.

"Be extra careful of course. Use new meeting places, but keep on meeting and do not let your care interfere with the work of reaching the masses.

"Yours for CEC per J. Carr."

This appeared in New York:

"Arrested: William Z. Foster, secretary Trade Union Educational League; C. E. Ruthenberg, national secretary Workers' party; William F. Dunne, labor editor of the Worker, and many other militant workers.

"Why?"

"Come and hear the truth about 'THE CONSPIRACY TO CRUSH LABOR.

"Friday Night, Sept. 1, 8 o'clock, 'CENTRAL OPERA HOUSE,' 67th street and Third avenue.

"SPEAKERS

"Roger Baldwin of the Civil Liberties Union.

"Norman Thomas of the Nation.

"Elizabeth G. Flynn, Workers Defense Union.

"J. Louis Engdahl, editor the Worker.

"Fred Bienenkapp, Workers' Defense Union.

"Come Early. Admission 10 cents.

"Auspices of 'National Defense Committee, 'New York Division.'

Here are excerpts of the minutes of S. D. O. meeting of August 28:

"Group Captains—READ, DESTROY.

"Present: Acting SDO. SOs 1284567 and B representing acting SDO re-

ports that he has all necessary connections with party machinery above and below. We are doing our work as usual. Ask all comrades to clean out or destroy all incriminating material.

"(Signed)

"Charles Schwab, Acting SDO.

"P. S. Every comrade must come to help. It's your duty to be there and support B. SO's please give further information. On Sept. 1. So give further information. This is important. Be there."

Others Arrested at Bridgeman.

Others arrested at Bridgeman on August 22, when the secret convention of the Communist party was raided, were:

Thomas Flaherty of New York, Charles Krumboltz, Eugene Bechtold, Caleb Harrison of Chicago, Cyril Lambkin, W. Reynolds of Detroit, J. Mihelle of Kansas City, Alex Ball of Philadelphia, Francis Ashworth of Camden, N. J.; E. McMillin, T. R. Sullivan and Norman H. Tallendire of St. Louis, Max Lerner of Seattle, Zeph Northing of Portland.

Others at Bridgeman participating in the convention or looking on as visiting radicals were:

Comrade J. Loveston, secretary of the central executive committee; Ben Gittlow, Ella Reeves Bloor, Robert Minor, Ward Brooks, direct representative of the Communist Internationale of Moscow, and Boris Reinstein, representing the Red Trade Union Internationale of Moscow, and Rose Pastor Stokes. The Department of Justice is as much interested in the documents as the people captured.

Foster Convention Leader.

William Z. Foster was the leader of the Communists in the Bridgeman convention. He is considered the ablest and most vicious Red in the movement in this country. He is also the most active, daring and aggressive. In the raid he was taken away from Bridgeman when the State officers swooped down on the secret convention. Foster was among the first to go. Later he was arrested at Chicago.

The so-called legal branches of the Communist party of America are: The Workers party of America, a political division; the Trade Union Educational League, an industrial unit; Friends of Soviet Russia, a financial department, and the Young Workers' League, for the coming generation.

There are scores of others of less importance, among them the Russian Red Cross and the Famine Scout Club.

Employed by Soviet.

The Department of Justice has conclusive evidence, secured at Bridgeman, that Foster is in the employ of the Communist party of Russia and actually working for Lenin and Trotsky. By his own statement at the Bridgeman meeting he is an "industrial director of the Communist party."

Foster was born at Taunton, Mass., October 25, 1881. For a time he was a reporter on a New England Socialist paper. While employed in that capacity he became a convert to I. W. W. doctrines. He was a member of the Railway Carmen's Union. Becoming very active as a labor agitator he was sent to many conventions, some of them in other countries. He got his "Boring from within" inspiration from an anarchist convention in Barcelona, Spain. Later he added to that slogan, "One big union." He has been an enthusiastic strike maker. He was active in the Standard Steel Car Company strike at Butler, Pa. He helped to organize the committee that ultimately brought on the steel strike, which he led. In 1912 he was a member of the home colony of Anar-

### Meaning of Code Letters Used in Red Documents

GLOSSARY for to-day's article on the Reds in the United States:

CEC—Central executive committee.

SDO—Subdistrict organizer.

SO—Section organizer or organization.

SOS—Section organizers or organizations.

C—Friends Soviet Russia.

CI—Communist Internationale.

chists in the State of Washington, He organized the Stockyards Labor Council.

His Fight Against Gompers.

In 1918 Foster went to Pittsburgh to become secretary and treasurer of a special organizing committee of the American Federation of Labor. That was the beginning of his vigorous fight against Samuel Gompers.

At the 1919 conference, in Washington, to organize the iron and steel workers, he represented the electrical workers. A year later he was instrumental in starting the outlaw railroad strike.

Foster believes in "direct action"—in force—rather than the ballot to bring about changes in government and in the ownership of industries for labor.

As secretary of the Syndicalist League of North America he has done effective work. Higher sounding if not as important positions are: Member of the American Civil Liberties Union, of which Roger N. Baldwin is the leader, and trustee of the James A. Garland Fund—the \$500,000 provided by an eccentric millionaire for "progressive purposes."

Author of Radical Books.

Foster is the author of radical books intended to incite workers to violence against society. This is the man who thought out the Bridgeman convention but was partially thwarted by Michigan and United States authorities.

His views are interesting.

"The Syndicalist," said he, "is a radical anti-patriot. He is a true internationalist, knowing no country. He opposes patriotism because it creates feelings of nationalism among the workers of the various countries and prevents cooperation between them and also because of the militarism it inevitably breeds."

"Foster was not cowed by the Bridgeman raid. He went to work in earnest to arouse his followers to more drastic action. He and others organized a defense committee and commenced the collection of funds for bonds and lawyers. Attorney-General Daugherty has in his possession copies of the speech that Foster made at Bridgeman, showing the connection between the radicals in this country and those in Russia. Foster presented a program for the Communists of America he brought from Moscow.

Moscow's Boring In.

"I found in the Red Trades Union International and generally in Moscow," said he, "a keen understanding of the fundamentals of our situation in this country. I can say that I found a better understanding of the general fundamentals in America than we can boast of here."

In his Bridgeman remarks Foster denounced Samuel Gompers, and re-

cited details of his activities "boring from within" the labor unions. He had been especially industrious in the railroad and mining unions. He started out to industrialize the sixteen different railroad unions. In this work he was following advice and instructions from Moscow.

"We drafted a program for industrial unionism and sent out 11,000 copies to every trade union in America," said he. "We knew that the strike was coming along and tried to be on the job."

Propaganda Among Railroad Men.

"The strike occurred with the result that there was the great object lesson of bosses using one section to defeat the other. The leaders were cowards and did not dare tell the men that the brotherhoods were at work. It fell upon our league to show the men this. The result has been that our propaganda has run like wildfire through the railroad men of the country."

"So far, in the railroad situation, we have merely talked industrial unionism to them. We have not used the issue of the Red Trade Union International and various other issues."

Foster explained that his enemies had told who he was, and he did not have to worry about that, as the men learned where "the constructive program came from."

"Monopoly of the Press."

"During the strike I could go before them and talk anything at all," he declared. "The wall has broken and we have succeeded in getting a grip in those organizations and have got them coming our way. We have got to break the monopoly of the press. The bureaucracy of the trade union has got the press, which is one of the secrets of control, and we must try to aim at that—the breaking of the monopoly of the press, and with the great volume of sentiment we could succeed."

"The workers of America are ready for new ideas. There is nothing to be got from the old machine, and if we will go to them they will listen to what we have got to say. In our conference we should be very careful about the program that we adopt. As far as I am concerned, we should adopt a clear cut revolutionary program. Adopt a proposition endorsing Russia and endorsing the dictatorship."

Continued on Following Page.

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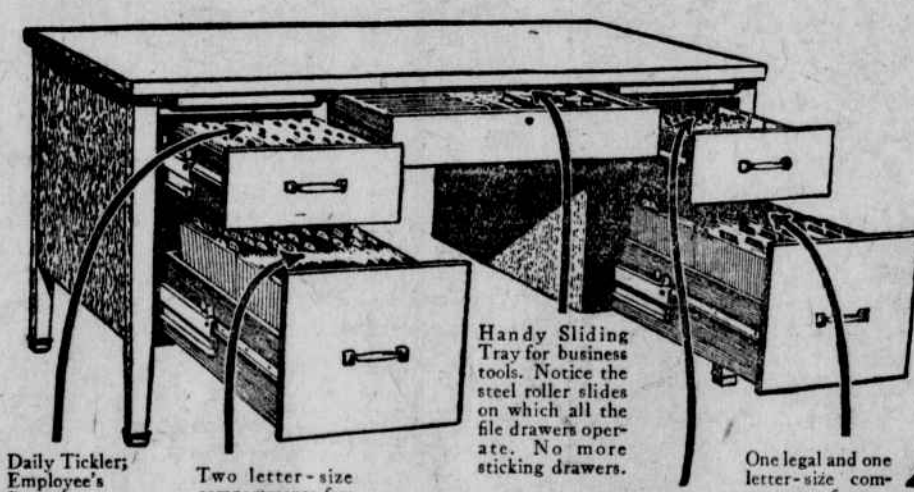
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